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# Queen Breeders Journal

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY E. L. PRATT AT MARLBORO, MASS., U. S. A.

Vol. I.

JUNE, 1889.

No. 6.

## "Breeding For Color" Reviewed.

On page 71, May issue of Q. B. J., appears the sayings of the editor of the Apiculturist relating to breeding for color. Mr. Alley, the editor referred to, claims to be a veteran expert queen breeder and thus proves himself competent authority. I do not take issue with him on competency, nor question his long and extensive experience. I do not concur with all he says or wrote concerning certain varieties of bees. I have been a bee fancier during a longer period than any man now living. I was concerned in the first successful importation of Italian bees into this country and possessed queens bred from the first Italian queen that landed safely on this continent—imported in Sept., 1859, by J. P. Mahan of Philadelphia, Pa.—and I mailed to Rev. L. L. Langstroth the first queen bee ever shipped by mail transit.

I thus allude to my more than "thirty years experience" so that readers may infer that in point of knowledge pertaining to the "subject" matter I am probably the peer of Mr. Alley. He asserts that: "Those handsome bees are the poorest honey gatherers of any race or strain of bees we have." This refers to some certain "race or strain." The bees that are natives of Italy and their progeny, purely bred in this country, are legitimately called "Italian bees." All such bees are a distinct race, regardless of "color" or number of "bands" or shade of "yellow" more or less on any part of the bees. Indeed, don't "the reader know" that the progeny of each and every queen of all the different races are not identical in color nor the same if compared as

to "bands" and several minor points?

Mr. Alley mentions: "those beautiful bees are as worthless as flies." Every candid person who has given attention to breeding or the different types of races will inform inexperienced readers that some of the so-called "dark Italians" prove to be extra good bees for profit; and others, just as candid and reliable and as competent, will say, and verily believe, that the most "handsome bees" are equal or superior to any race of bees. Whoever declares that Italian bees are "as worthless as flies" record themselves "worthless" as authority. A novice in bee-keeping might be deceived and harmed by Mr. Alley's wantonly erroneous comparison.

Mr. Alley attacks the so-called "Albino bees" and mentions that *they* are worthless. He is the only one who has put themselves on record declaring that the Albino bees are worthless or inferior to Italian bees in general. The Albinos are true Italians, mutable as to type colors or markings. The light colored Italians have received the name "Albino," but they are not a distinct race or breed and not different from Italians except a slight difference common with the Italian type of bees. It was not until 1874 that whitish Italian bees were noticed as being radically lighter in coloring than imported Italians. I obtained several of the Albino queens in 1876 and bred from them, and I ordered and received several Albino queens last season of Mr. S. Valentine of Hagarstown, Md., and I expect more Albino queens this season. I have found the handsome Italians, beautiful Albino bees equal in point of "profit" to any of the true

Italians. Rev. L. L. Langstroth and Prof. Cook have tried the Albino type and recorded their estimation of those beautiful bees, and they differ radically with Mr. Alley, who is not corroborated by any writer. Mr. Alley mentions that the puffed-up Albino bee has ceased to exist. On this allegation he is grossly incorrect, for the queen breeders who have been breeding Albinos sent out as many Albino queens last season as usual. It is true that certain (individually) puffed-up strains of bees have ceased to exist, at least the puffing has ceased, and it is not proven that the puffed-up bees ever existed.

Mr. Alley mentions that "in breeding for those beautiful Italians, all other qualities are destroyed," but he fails to give reasons why "other qualities are destroyed," and I do not believe his unsupported doctrine. He asserts that the most prolific queens are not the best for honey gathering progeny." I concede that he is original in such a notion. No other bee-keeper has discovered that the most prolific queens are faulty in giving vitality and vim to their progeny. The queen that is not fruitful fails to be such for the reason she is not the most vigorous, consequently her progeny does not inherit vigor and vim. Just the reverse of Mr. Alley's illogic.

Mr. Alley tries to compare beautiful bees to "elegant ladies—listless, lazy, good-for-nothing." This seems a strange comparison to offer as argument. The ladies he refers to are not born of any different "race" of people, and her personal beauty has nothing to do with evidence of her being by nature listless, lazy or worthless. What sane man does not prize beauty in ladies and in everything? Dark colored and homely ladies are as often listless, lazy and as worthless in every sense as beautiful ladies. "It is a fact, and I know it from thirty years experience" in observation.

I do not claim that any Italian bees are superior in point of profit. I am testing the Carniolan bees and believe they possess traits which are advantageous for business. In corresponding with Frank Benton of Laibach, Austria, he recently wrote me, mentioning that "for my (his) part prefer Carniolans to any Italians." Surely Mr. Benton is competent to judge.

C. J. ROBINSON.  
Richford, N. Y.

Our friend seems to have tangled our manuscript with that of Neighbor Alley's. But, however, we are going to credit ourselves to the "Elegant Lady part." We are admirers of beauty in all things, and when mingled with usefulness how much more beautiful. The old saying of "Beauty is only skin deep" has proved itself true with the very bright Italian bees. We have imported them from the Waldention valley as bright as hornets, and they were all that could be asked of a bee, but after they have been bred for color, regardless of quality, they are ruined by too much beauty and too little usefulness. The Carniolans are beautiful and useful; without doubt they are ahead of all races in very many points.—[Ed.]

On page 50 is an article by Mr. Doolittle, in which is stated the idea that "a pure queen, however mated, must produce a pure drone of her own variety," is a theory only derived from the fact that a virgin queen can lay eggs, which will produce drones; and he says that the drones of a mated queen are not pure at all. Although Mr. Alley and some other bee-keepers are on his side, nevertheless it is a mistake.—L. Stachelhausen.

### Those Celebrated Crosses.

In the April number of the Q. B. J. J. E. Pond takes up that hybrid question, and in the same issue is Mr. Doolittle's article on the Dzierzon theory; both of them are so near akin that I want to throw in a crumb from the loaf of facts.

About sixteen years ago I had crossing *on the brain*; it was caught from observing several accidental mismated black queens and the working of their worker progeny and several mismated Italian queens and their progeny. These *superior* colonies were all collected into an apiary and for several years they were carefully bred, selected and recorded, and the results summed up were: Sting in the predominance, propensity to crawl everywhere in the clothing, boil over the top of the hive and out of the entrance in some colonies, and in other colonies they were so cussedly stubborn that smoke would not start anywhere; there were some that would go into the boxes freely, and of course they were superior to the Italians; but those superior colonies were in the very few, and they were more common in the second cross with Italian blood.

G. W. House some years ago stated that the Hybrids were only valuable in proportion to their Italian blood; in that I am forced to agree by actual test for myself, and there is where the drone theory proves true, and Mr. Doolittle has done more to prove the drone theory than to condemn it. In 1877 I read the Dzierzon theory. To test it I began two experiments in the spring of 1878. To be prepared for it I had some first-class material; on one side were three queens—beauties for color, plenty large and first-class layers; their workers were just living beauties—bright yellow, and good natured in the extreme. These three queens came from a good breeder that bragged over color, beauty and un-

equaled markings, and could have added laziness with a superior quantity and without chance for question, because the workers from the three queens were too lazy even to sting; they were so good natured that, set up a two-frame nucleus and give them a queen everything was all O. K., and I found them extremely profitable for that purpose.

On the other hand, I had four or five queens that were mahogany colored, very prolific, and their workers were even and a light tan color. In 1878 I separated these two strains into two apiaries quite a distance apart and took care of all the bees in each locality for nothing so that I could control the drones; and in a third apiary I raised queen cells, taking the queens to both apiaries to be mated, and I satisfied myself in three seasons that the drones held the balance of progenetic influence. The queen that I raised cells from was of good pedigree, a good breeder and prolific enough. But the matings showed a very marked and wide difference. I also raised queen cells in each apiary and took the queens to the other apiary to be mated, and here the difference was again very plain. There were from 10 to 25 nuclei at each apiary continually raising queens, and the queens were taken to other apiaries to test. With these experiments I also tested the extent of having the queens from a superior working strain mated with drones from the worthless working strain, and from those queens I raised drones for mating at a distant apiary to be used on other queens. These experiments, following through three seasons and a part of the fourth and upon eight generations, convinced me of two things,—first, that the Dzierzon theory had opened wide a secret door, and to use it the breeder should watch close and keep a close pedigree, because a scrub of a queen might be the mother of a first-class

working colony and her progenitors be a worthless race; second, the theory gave evidence of a practical and safe chance for practical and sure results in that strongly objected to practice of in-breeding, and it is positively the only sure road to success. I have thoroughly tested it in bees, fowls, rabbits and ferrits, and I am personally acquainted with those that do practice it in cattle, sheep and swine. They are successful; they have strong, healthy stock and produce very marked results.

A continual infusion of new blood will in no way establish a fixed type, and continual in-breeding will also increase disease, because if any quality, health or weakness is present in the sire and dam so also it is doubly strong in the offspring. I am well acquainted in a locality where the disease of garget was not known among the cows. A very fine young bull was brought into the neighborhood. The bull was a thorough breed and from a gargety affected cow and sired by a bull with the same taint of blood. There was not a heifer calf raised in that locality sired by that bull during the two years he was used and not a few of these heifers lost one or two teats by the disease, and many of the bull calves butchered showed the same tuberculous disease in the liver. So much for the sire influence.

Take notice, readers, and find out if most of your wintering troubles, spring dwindling, etc., etc., etc., are not hereditary, in place of pollen, etc.

H. L. JEFFREY.

New Milford, Conn.

The census year begins June 1st next and ends May 31st, 1890. If farmers throughout the country would note this fact and keep account of the products of their farms during the census year it would be of material aid in securing reliable returns for the Eleventh Census.

#### We Want Better Queens, Not Cheaper.

The competition in queens has got now almost, if not quite, to a standstill. Any bee keeper of experience knows first that the ordinary honey producer cannot produce as good queens as can the special breeder; second, that he cannot raise queens (good or poor) as cheaply as he can purchase them; and third, that no one, queen breeder or not, can produce *A No. 1* queens, tested for strength and prolificness, as well as purity, for less than three dollars each. Now such being the admitted fact, does it not savor of "a trick of the trade," if nothing worse, for any one to advertise queens at less than the above figure. It is true that queens can be reared promiscuously at a profit, at one dollar each, but who is there of us who wishes to run any chance whatever of deteriorating the stock we now have?

If any one thinks a bee is a bee, and nothing else, and that one bee is just as good as another, that one will not probably see the point of this article; but the apiarist who desires constant improvement in his bees, as he does in his cattle or horses, can fully appreciate my idea, which is this: It requires care and skill to improve bees as well as any other form of stock. It cannot be done without such care, and the exercise of great skill. Not only must the best queen mothers be used for the purpose, but equal, if not greater care must be given to the rearing of drone mothers also. We can select personally the queens from which we rear our queens and drones, but we cannot select individual drones to mate such queens, but must depend on their meeting such drones as are flying when the marital trip is made. Now does any one suppose for a moment, taking all things into consideration in connection with breeding alone, that the price I have given is too high, and

when there is added the great risk to queens, in making their wedding flight, can any one think for a moment that my figures are high enough? If they do, let them "try it on," and my word for it, they will at once admit that I am not too high, to say the least. Admitting, then, that I am correct in the above, does it not follow that those who advertise queens at the ridiculously low prices that are given every month, either are not giving us such queens as we want or else are losing money in the business? I don't rear queens, have no friends that are in the business whom I desire to aid by this article; I do believe, however, that better queens are wanted, and that we can only improve our bees by using the best queens procurable; and with this belief I must advise all bee keepers to buy only from those dealers in queens who charge prices at which a profit can be made, as the risk in purchasing from those who offer them at what is known to be losing prices, is too great for any of us to run, who desire improvement.

I assail no one; I impugn no one's honesty; I simply say what I know to be the truth, and common sense will show all that no one cares to breed queens at a loss any more than they care to do business of any kind without a profit. J. E. POND.

No. Attleboro, June 6, '89.

In the above Brother Pond probably hits some of us where we are a little bit sore, but he is telling truth and shows us an opportunity to correct our error for all time to come. Would it not be well for the queen breeders all over the country to join in one solid union to maintain and establish a market value on their productions. Could we not gather together the prices of all the breeders throughout the land and settle on a

uniform price for the different grades of queens, each signing a paper of sanction?

#### Introducing Queens.

So you want to know how I put in that queen? It's the easiest thing to do in the apiary. I have tried all the plans and all the fixings that I could find out about, and every time I go back onto the old paper end cage. I take a strip of fine wire cloth two inches wide, ravel out one end for half an inch, wrap the wire cloth around a lath, bring it so you can ravel out the other end for half an inch and twist these wires together. Your cage is made. Shove a piece of sponge into one end that is soaked full of honey, cover the other end with three thicknesses of old envelopes, manilla paper, let it come up for three-eighths of an inch around the end of the cage and wire it there. Cage the queen through the sponge end, hang the cage between two combs of honey, and if there is no honey coming in put on an entrance feeder and *let them severely alone for just one week*, and you will always find your queen at her business. I have used this cage ever since 1873. For myself and others I have introduced several hundred queens without a loss. The success with any cage is to *positively* have the bees undisturbed in any way whatever. Till after quiet and friendly relations are thoroughly established between the bees and queen; until after they have not the shadow of a chance to raise a queen from anything but the brood of the one introduced; until after that stage of development has taken place, the close observer will find a few rebels. The queen, like our president, is the point of antagonism.

H. L. JEFFREY.

New Milford, Conn.

Buy pure queens when you can.

## Pure or Mixed Queens.

Brother Heddon takes me to task somewhat for upholding the honor of pure Italian bees. Notwithstanding this, I still propose to stick to my views until I am proved to be wrong. Not by "say so's," but by actual proofs. Now I don't wish to be understood as crying down Bro. Heddon's crosses, not by any means. I have no doubt the queens he sends out are fine, and are the result of fine and careful crossing; what I do mean to say is this,—that the ordinary bee keeper will not, in fact cannot keep the Heddon standard up, and the result will be deterioration. Again, the Italians show certain fixed characteristics and markings by which they can always be identified in the worker progeny, while crosses have no such markings, and as a consequence there is no way by which deception on the part of less honest queen dealers than Bro. Heddon can be found out. I say the Italians have honestly won their way to favor against strong opposition. I say that this is not a mere statement on my part, but is the testimony of the great majority of bee keepers the world over. I say again that no cross can produce a strain with characteristics so fixed that they can be positively known, even in the first succeeding generation, and after that, what then?

My point is simply this. The purity of Italians shows itself; there is no chance for deception, and further, until the matter of fertilization is more fully under our control than at present, no crosses or *hybrids*, if you please, can be proved to be a fixed strain by any particular markings or characteristics.

J. E. POND.

No. Attleboro, May 28, '89.

Do not be satisfied with what others may say. Try the Carniolan this season and be convinced they are the best bees on the face of the earth, Italian notwithstanding.

## The Queen Breeders Journal

Published by E. L. Pratt.

MARLBORO, MASS., JUNE 1889.

## The Western Apiarian.

We welcome the new Western Apiarian to the field of apicultural literature. The first number is at hand. It is a 16 page monthly (with cover), at 50 cents per year, devoted to apiculture on the Pacific slope, more especially California. This first number is interesting, to say the least. The editors are S. L. Watkins and F. E. McCallum of Placerville, Cal. Friend W. is an admirer and pusher for the Carniolan race of bees, which brings him into favor with a great many progressive bee keepers. We exchange with pleasure.

## CAPPINGS.

Mr. Doolittle's cells and his original forming-stick are in our hands.

Rearing all our drones from an imported stock.

The Australasian Bee Journal is talking about adding a poultry department to their excellent publication.

Our Australasian friends have adopted the American method of supplying untested queens by mail.

The Carniolans are working into favor very rapidly. Reports of unusual credit are being constantly received.

For the last two weeks it has been very disagreeable weather for both young queens and their masters in this portion of the country.

We are rather struck on the easy and thorough plan of securing cells above a zinc honey-board. We are working several colonies by both new methods.

Comb foundation has taken a slide upwards on account of scarcity of wax. We shall have to quote a raise of five cents per pound on all foundation, both wholesale and retail.

Two or three days hard work in the scorching sun would convince all that we cannot afford to rear a queen for less than \$1, and \$1.50 is none too high, taking into consideration the risk all young queens are heir to.

Last fall we had a small Carniolan queen that we considered under-sized, so we put her onto three combs and left them on the summer stand. Today this queen is keeping a ten-frame hive up to the mark without aid.

Our Placerville, Cal., friends of the "Apiarian" are pushers. Some of us old timers will need to spruce up a little more. This infusing young blood among the bee publishing fraternity causes a "stir" and a "hustle" among them.

We have never had such a demand for full colonies as this year. The Carniolans are the best bees in the world for filling such a demand, on account of their prolificness and wintering, giving good strong colonies very early in spring.

We could extract many pounds from our queen nuclei. Many of the three and four frame size are solid full with the exception of a small patch in

the centre of two combs. This should be all convincing of the gathering qualities of the Carniolans when so small a colony will fill up.

We sent to Dr. Tinker of New Philadelphia for samples of his slated zinc honey-boards. They are the nicest piece of work we have ever seen about hive work of any kind. If this is a sample of the Dr.'s regular work, he may well be satisfied of success with his specialties.

We have tried the new Alley method of rearing queens in full colonies with the old queen present and have secured some fine cells thereby. The colony does not need to be so very strong, so long as they are crowded. Success will crown your efforts.

We have had three colonies of Carniolan bees kept to the swarming point for the last two weeks, yet they refuse to cast a swarm. From one colony we have taken twelve frames of brood and supplied foundation. Today the foundation is drawn out and every cell is filled with brood honey and pollen.

Brother Phin of the Industrial Pub. Co., 9 Barclay street, N. Y. city, has sent us a prospective of their excellent publications. On looking over the list we find works on such practical matters as "Square and its use," "Stair building," "How to use the hand saw," and many other useful books. "A Dictionary of Practical Apiculture" is published by this firm.

My home apiary has 17 rows of hives, and about 20 hives in a row,



making the apiary nearly square. In past seasons I have had some trouble with young queens missing their hive when out on their wedding trip, especially when their hive was located near the centre of the apiary. To overcome this difficulty, I painted a number of little boards, about 6 inches square, some a bright yellow and others a bright blue, and when I knew a hive to have a virgin queen, I placed one of these near the entrance, in various positions, to help her distinguish her own hive, and so far have lost very few queens.

J. F. McINTYRE.

Fillmore, California.

A better, a surer way is to block all front entrances if the nuclei are not strong and bore a hole at the rear, side or corner of every other hive, varying the position of the holes as much as possible. In this manner you will never lose a queen by her getting into a wrong hive as there are no two entrances alike, although the hives are similar and systematic.

Our system is to rear the queens in a house kept at a uniform temperature constantly; nothing but capped brood and capped cells will be carried into the house and the queens will be allowed to fly through the opening in the wall to become fertilized. We have had experience enough with this system to feel confident that it will prove successful. There will be no wading around in the wet grass to feed nucleus, to put up queens to ship, and then it takes ten times as much time to look over or care for 100 nuclei scattered over an apiary, as it does in a warm room or in an incubator.—A. G. Hill of the Guide.

The way that I manage a colony that has laying workers is as follows: I take out all the combs excepting the

two outside ones; then I go to a strong colony and remove a frame or two, as the strength of the colony may warrant, covered with bees, being careful not to remove the queen, and put them into the laying-worker colony, and fill their place with the combs taken from the laying workers. If I have no queen to introduce, I let them rear one. These new bees that are introduced will have no nonsense, and will dispose of the laying workers in their own time and way.—Mrs. L. Harrison.

All the young queens of the Carniolan race produce more or less banded bees. They become more uniform in color as the age of the queen advances. "Variation in color is no indication that a race is not pure. Uniformity in color of any race is accomplished only by the breeder. The grayish, downy coats, and the peculiar habits, are the distinguishing characteristics of the Carniolan race." Another good quality that must not be over-looked, possessed by these bees, is that they are not given to robbing. Last fall my Carniolan bees filled their hives so full of honey that the queens had no breeding room. I had to remove several full frames, and insert empty combs in their place.—S. L. Watkins, Western Apiarian, Placerville, Cal.

Prepare a brood chamber with frames half filled with heavy brood foundation sheets 6 inches wide, will not need to be wired if the frames are shallow frames. Place a wood-zinc honey board on the brood chamber and a slatted frame work for the support of the box hive above the honey board. As soon as the season for honey opens and the colony becomes strong, drum them out and secure the queen. Place the box hive in position and hive the bees and queen into the prepared brood chamber. A drone trap should be attached to the

box hive to catch the drones and any virgin bees that may issue. At the end of twenty-one days remove the box hive, drum out the bees, extract the honey and transfer such combs as are valuable. Italianize at any time seven days after the brood chamber is given: but it will of course be easier done after the box hive is removed.—Dr. Tinker.

The best pure bees are either Italian or Carniolan. The former have been long tested and are much superior to ordinary blacks. Carniolans are dark bees from Germany and are fast coming to the front, although comparatively a new variety. Either will suit, as both are gentle and good honey gatherers, but Carniolan bees furnish the finest comb honey.—Samuel Cushman.

I have reared several queens in an observatory-hive in my dining-room, so as to be better able to watch the whole *modus operandi*, and find that the queens raised in this hive get mated several days earlier than those reared in the ordinary hive. As a rule, those reared in the observatory-hive get mated on the third or fourth day after their quitting the cell, whereas the queens in an ordinary nucleus hive rarely get mated before the sixth day. Another thing that came under my notice when rearing queens in this hive, was, that on the second or third day of the queens leaving the cell, the bees worried and teased her, as if to drive her from the hive, and gave her no peace until she left the hive for impregnation. Whether workers in an ordinary nucleus hive act in this manner towards their queens would be of interest to learn.—C. C. Cusack, Aust. Bee Journal.

IF YOU WERE TROUBLED with a short crop, not enough honey for your

bees to winter on try, the Carniolan bees this season. They are good honey gatherers, prolific, gentle and hardy. We will furnish you with a nice queen from imported mother for \$1 each. H. E. and E. L. Pratt, Marlboro, Mass.

**Remarks.**

If you receive more than one of this paper, will you kindly hand one to your friend who is also interested in Apiculture. Sample copies will be supplied at any time for the asking.

To those of our friends who will help to extend the circulation of the Queen Breeders Journal by getting up clubs, we will give an extra copy for every club of five with \$2.

When writing to us and the heading of your letter is different from your post-office address, give your post-office, and write all names plainly and it will insure a prompt reply.

The receipt for subscription money sent us will be given on the address-label of every paper. The first figure is the vol. and their last figure shows the numberclusive. If your date is not changed on then next number after sending money, notify us at once. Don't wait! Do it now.

We have not time to answer all letters of kindness, never-the-less, we appreciate them more than we can tell on paper.

**Standard Works.**

Bee-Keepers' Guide, or Manual of the Apiary, revised, by Prof. A. J. Cook. By mail, \$1.50.

A B C of Bee-Culture, by A. I. Root. By mail, \$1.25.

Bees and Honey, by Thomas G. Newman. Price, bound in cloth, \$1.

A Year Among the Bees, by Dr. C. C. Miller. Price 75 cents.

"How to Raise Honey," by Oliver Foster. Price 5 cents.

How to Propagate and Grow Fruit, by Charles A. Green, contains over 20 illustrations and two large fruit plates, etc. Price 25 cents.

The Hive and Honey Bee, by Rev. L. L. Langstroth. Price, in cloth, \$2.

Success in Bee Culture, as practised and advised by James Heddon. Price in paper covers, 50 cents.

Production of Comb Honey, by W. Z. Hutchinson. Paper, price 25 cents.

A Birds-eye View of Bee-keeping, by Rev. W. F. Clarke. Price 25 cents.

Bee-keepers' Handy Book, by Henry Alley. Price in cloth, \$1.25.

Quinby's New Beekeeping, by L. C. Root. Price in cloth, \$1.50.

How I Produce Comb Honey, by George E. Hilton. Price 5 cents.

G. M. Doolittle's Method of Rearing Queens, published by E. H. Cook. Price 15 cents.

### The Carniolans.

Extracts from the A. B. J. page 775, 1886. This refers to the progeny of a Carniolan queen sent Mr. C. J. Bertel, June 15, 1886.

"I at once introduced her to a three frame nucleus of Italians. At the beginning of the present month (November,) while overhauling my colonies preparatory to packing for winter I had opportunity to compare their condition with Italians. All bins, Syrians and Blacks, in all their purity, and hybrids and crosses of every description; not one could show as much honey as the Carniolans; they were strong in number, and their hive was solid with honey from side to side in combs nearly as white as snow; there was no soiling of combs by the bees running over them, and I thought that like the cleanly house keeper they wipe their shoes before they enter the house. I attribute this to the fact that they use little or no propolis. They are not as bright in color as the Italians and therefore perhaps to a casual observer, not as attractive, yet to my eye they are beauties, and answer all points given by Mr Frank Benton, and others. And as for docility, they are superior even to the Italians. Their frequent swarming, so much urged against them, I think not a serious fault for they are more easily manipulated than most others. I would rather handle ten colonies of Carniolans than one of Hybrids. So far as my experience goes I am sure owing to their prolificness, docility, beauty and white comb building they will play a prominent part in the future. Next to Carniolan I find the Syrians the best honey storers, but they are so nervous the least jar will start them, and often make things very unpleasant; but of all the nasty vicious creatures under the sun the off spring of a Syrian queen mated with a Black or Hybrid drone is the worst."

C. J. BERTEL,  
Easton, Pa.

Thomas B. Blow F. L. S., etc., in the British Bee Journal thus sums up a long, well written article entitled "Among the Carniolan Bee-Keepers," written after having spent six weeks among the Italian and Carniolan bee-keepers. My conclusions are that as a race the Carniolans are ahead of any race of bees that I know of, and that their merits are inherent, for no attempt has been made to improve the race by cultivation, by the selection of the fittest, etc. Being natives of a cold and windy climate, they are admirably adapted for our climate. They can be handled without smoke, will rarely sting, and do not run in heaps at the bottom of the bars, or fall off the combs. For honey getting they are excellent. These bees have undoubtedly a great future before them, and will, I am convinced, in a few years come into very general use."

Rev. E. T. Abbott of St. Joseph, Mo., in The Busy Bee says: "The queens are prolific. They are more inclined to swarm than the Blacks, but not any more so than the Italians. However this fault can be overcome by giving them plenty of room. A Carniolan queen mated with an Italian drone produces a very fine and desirable bee. We have a number of such colonies that are very fine workers and easy to manipulate. We are confident this race of bees cannot fail to grow in favor."

Mr. D. A. Jones in the Canadian Bee Journal vol. II, page 452 says: "Carniolans are very gentle and thus far have proved themselves valuable honey gatherers; would prefer them for capping comb, and we think they are not so much inclined to swarm as Italians." On page 267 he says: "Carniolans are better breeders than Italians, mine this season proved to be better honey gatherers. I also found our Carniolans more industrious than others, and a large number of hives containing Carniolan queens seemed to give the best results late in the season, when honey was scarce."

Mr. Robert Sproule of Dublin, Ireland, in Gleanings, page 177, volume XIV says: "My opinion of the Carniolans is that they are the best bees we have. The queens are conspicuous, the bees are gentle, and good honey gatherers, and they are very hardy. To show the industry of the Carniolans I may mention that I sometimes feed my stock by placing a supply of syrup out doors at some little distance from the hives. The Carniolans are the first to find it out, and have every drop taken away before the blacks begin flying for the day. The crosses with the blacks are almost as gentle as the full bloods."

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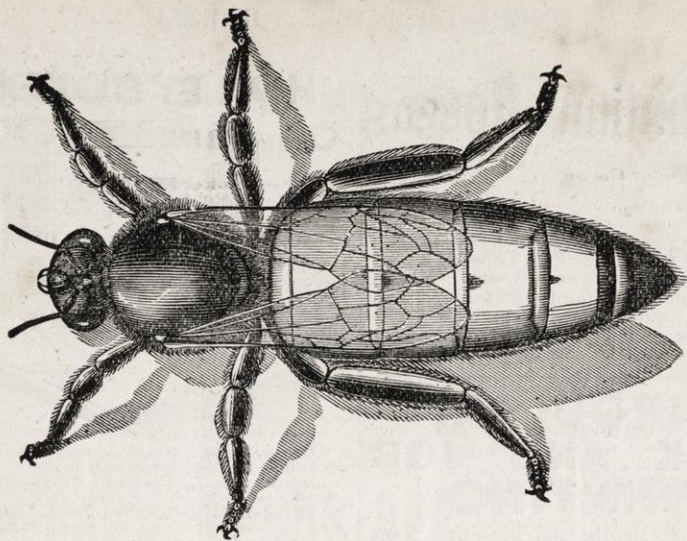
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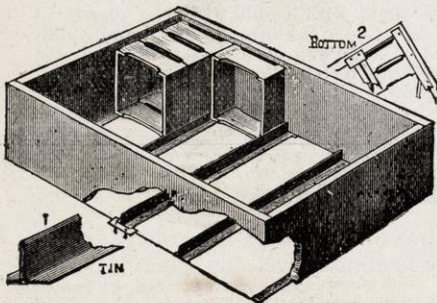
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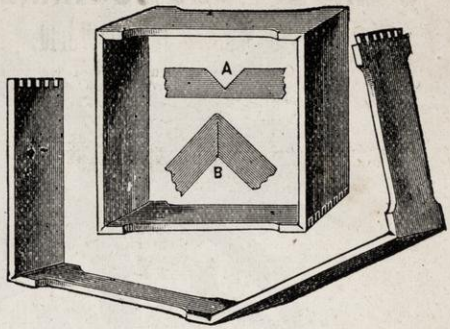
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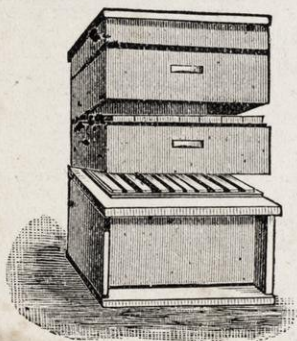
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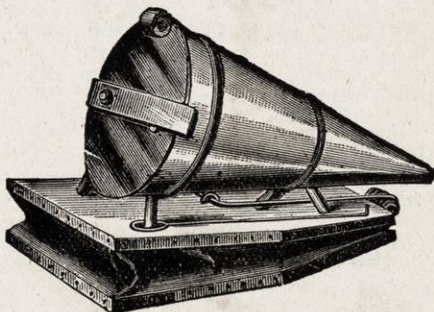
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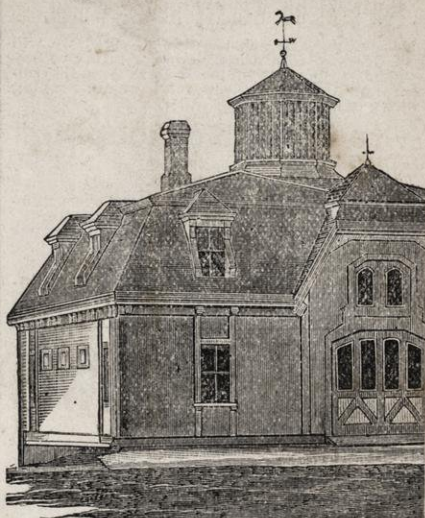
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